

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — CONSULTANTS

**756. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:**

I refer to the recent revelation that the Department of Education has spent over \$87 000 of taxpayer money to engage a New Zealand-based consultant for advice on reducing teacher workloads.

- (1) Given that the State School Teachers' Union of WA president, Mr Matt Jarman, indicated that substantial consultation with teachers on this subject has already occurred, can the minister justify this expenditure?
- (2) What unique value does this New Zealand-based consultant offer that our own educators and the findings from the Productivity Commission report on teacher workload reduction do not already provide; and will the minister make these findings public?

**Dr A.D. BUTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) It is very interesting that the member for Roe should quote a union leader when he is a union hater. He hates unions. He said in Parliament that he would not even allow a former High Court judge who may have been a union delegate to head up the royal commission into the casino because they had union affiliation, and now he wants to quote from a union official. It is quite amazing.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** He moved an amendment to the protected entertainment precincts legislation to try to remove the ability to have industrial freedom of association through the Northbridge region.

I will get to the member's question. The member has previously mentioned in here and outside this place that red tape has increased the administrative burden on teachers and principals. I thought he was going to come in here and congratulate me on instigating an inquiry to try to reduce red tape. I thought that is what he would be doing. I also thought he would congratulate me on that the department has gone to experts to try to ensure that we come up with something that will be significant and will allow teachers and principals to have their administrative red tape burden reduced so that they can do what they have been asked to do—that is, to be principals and to be teachers. I think the secretary of the relevant union would also be happy that we have gone to experts to try to ensure that what they come up with will be significant and will actually help the members that he represents. I am proud that I instigated this red tape review and I look forward to the results and to making significant change in this area to reduce the administrative workload on our teachers and principals.